

Message Text

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INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINACAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 2774

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY: BACK TO THE EXPERTS

SUMMARY: PRC POLICY ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY HAS APPARENTLY BEEN SORTED OUT AND WILL INCREASINGLY EMPHASIZE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE FOR PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WORKERS. TO UNDERSCORE THE POINT, LOCAL TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN TOLD CONGEN OFFICERS THAT ONCE VILIFIED PROPOSALS BY TENG HSIAO-PING ON RATIONALIZING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WERE RE-EMERGING. END SUMMARY.

1. TWO MARCH 9 FRONT PAGE PEOPLE'S DAILY ARTICLES HAVE CALLED FOR MORE EMPHASIS ON THE "ACTIVE ROLE" OF PROFESSIONAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL WORKERS, PAVING THE WAY FOR A MORE SYSTEMATIC AND RATIONAL APPROACH TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. WHILE RESEARCH IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS
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SYSTEM AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN INSULATED FROM POLITICAL INFERENCE, CIVILIAN RESEARCH UNITS UNDER THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE HAVE BEEN PARALYZED BY THE POLITICAL MACHINATIONS OF THE "GANG OF FOUR" IN RECENT YEARS. THE ARTICLES ALSO STATED THAT HUA KUO-FENG HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SINCE JANUARY 1975 AND HAD

CHAired A HERETOFORE UNANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 1975 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. THE "GANG OF FOUR" WERE CHARGED WITH "SMEARING" AN IMPORTANT DOCUMENT SUBMITTED BY THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AS A MEANS OF ATTACKING HUA AND OTHER LEADING CADRES. THE DOCUMENT IN QUESTION IS UNDOUBTEDLY TO SO-CALLED "OUTLINE REPORT" WHICH WAS WRITTEN AT THE BEHEST OF TENG HSIAO-PING AND WAS SUBJECTED TO CRITICISM AS ONE OF THE THREE "POISONOUS WEEDS" DURING LAST SUMMER'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE FORMER VIC PERMIER. TO DRIVE THE POINT HOME, A MARCH 10 COMMENTARY IN HONG KONG'S PRC-CONTROLLED WEN WEI PAO STATED THAT THIS DOCUMENT WAS THE "OUTLINE REPORT OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES".

2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH CONGEN OFFICERS ON MARCH 10, TA KUNG PAO PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN NOTED THE RE-EMERGENCE OF WHAT HE CALLED THE "TENG PROPOSALS" CONCERNING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WHICH DISTRIBUTED UNDER THE TITLE "OUTLINE REPORT". HE FURTHER NOTED THAT ACADEMY OF SCIENCE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL LIU CHUNG-YANG HAD BEEN THE GANG'S "AGENT" IN THE ACADEMY AND THAT HE HAD BEEN PURGED (REUTERS MARCH 9). FEI COMMENTED THAT FANG YI HAD MOVED OVER TO THE ACADEMY TO STRAIGHTEN OUT ITS PROBLEMS. FEI ALSO NOTED THAT THE ARGUMENTS PUT FORWARD BY THE "OUTLINE REPORT" AND THE OTHER DOCUMENTS KNOWN LAST YEAR AS THE "THREE POISONOUS WEEDS" HAD GENERALLY BEEN REGARDED BY THE CADRES WHO READ THEM

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THEN AS REASONABLE STATEMENTS AND WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION.
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